CEAS Hosts a Special Event For Gideon Schripsema

Scot Conant, CEAS Student Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator who after reading about Gideon’s story http://gideonschripsema.blogspot.com/, felt he wanted to do something special for him. Scot thought about having the blood drive that was being hosted at CEAS, be in honor of Gideon. He asked the student organizations if there was a group that wanted to run the event, the Tsai Lun students stepped up and did an unbelievable job from beginning to end. With the help of Tsai Lun, they made it happen and the turnout was extraordinary. Scot also gave Gideon and his big brother Brody some WMU items and took the family on a personal tour of the Sunseeker and Baja car labs. The boys asked the CEAS students lots of questions about the vehicles and were awarded plaques making them honorary members of SAE. Erin Baker an office assistant at CEAS, won a large shooting basketball game in a Coke raffle at the Parkview Café and she quickly decided to donate the game to Gideon and Brody. Erin said, “I have a son who was very sports oriented and watching the interaction between Gideon and Brody with our hockey team brought back memories of that comradery within a team. It also comes from being a mother (and I think I speak for all mothers) you want your child especially one who is sick, to have some fun and joy in their life.” Basketball jerseys for the entire family and two basketballs were also donated by Suzanne Katje from the WMU bookstore.

The Red Cross was amazed at the outpouring of generosity and thoughtfulness in honor of Gideon and his family. They received 97 units of blood, more than double of what they took in last year. It is very gratifying that the staff and students provided Gideon with many “good fishes”, in large part due to the efforts of Tsai Lun. Gideon and his family were blown away at the level of participation and kindness shown. They were thankful and shared how amazing this was for Gideon and his big brother Brody.

Gideon and his family’s heartwarming and inspirational story and their connection to the WMU Hockey team has made headlines. Upon learning that he was diagnosed with Leukemia, Gideon expressed the need to have “good fishes” in his system to fight the “sharks” that were hurting him. He sees every chemotherapy drug and blood transfusion as another way to get good fishes. Before you know it, people started sending him decorated paper fish to let him know that they were contributing their own “good fishes” to help.

Tsai Lun students did an outstanding job preparing, working, and cleaning up for the blood drive. They did not hesitate to take on and run this all day event with a large attendance. The dean’s office provided the cookies and juice for the donors and Tammy Bergman and Sue Ketchum made sure there was plenty. The WMU football team, Coach Cubit, and members of the WMU hockey team showed up to give blood as well as many of the CEAS staff.
Above 2011 CEAS seniors were recognized for their outstanding achievement in their individual fields of study. Dr. Tony Vizzini, Dean of CEAS sponsored the awards luncheon for the seniors with the highest grade point average. The event was held at the ParkView on the CEAS campus. As part of the ceremony, the seniors were presented with plaques reflecting their accomplishment. The student recipients named a faculty member who has been an important influence on them, and they too were presented with a plaque for their role.

Outstanding seniors honored and their chosen faculty members were:
- Kristen Bellmer, Chemical Engineering and Hannah Davis, Chemical Engineering, named Dr. Peter Parker, Cody Boyne, Engineering Management Technology, named Joseph Petro.

Left: Environmental. Growth & Cloning Chamber. L-R: Joseph Simko & Gregorio Amaro.